CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 15 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UKRAINE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED ON 12 MAY 1998 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE CONCERNING THREE UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS CARRIED OUT BY INDIA ON 11 MAY

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to request the distribution as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament of the attached text of a statement issued on 12 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning three underground nuclear tests carried out by India on 11 May.

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Statement
of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

On 11 May 1998 India has carried out three underground nuclear tests.

This event caused the great concern in Ukraine, for it violates the moratorium on nuclear tests, which was observed by the international community during last few years.

Our country, its population having suffered from the horrible consequences of the radioactive contamination, proceeds from the fact that any defence or security concerns, national interests of whatever country in the world could not justify the resumption of the nuclear explosion testing.

Ukraine, which in one's time voluntarily eliminated the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world and committed itself not to carry out nuclear testing, condemns this step made by India, which endangers the existing international arrangements in nuclear weapon non-proliferation.

Ukraine calls upon Goverments of India and other countries to cooperate more actively in the peaceful use of the nuclear energy and redouble their efforts to achieve complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Kyiv
12 May 1998